



IDAHO FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Idaho Fish & Game Office, Lewiston, Idaho

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes – IFSAC Chair, Oscar Baumhoff presiding

Chair Oscar Baumhoff asked committee members to review the January 2011 meeting minutes and solicited questions and/or clarifications.

A MOTION by John DeGroot to approve January 27, 2011 meeting minutes, seconded by Tom Davis. Discussion followed. Kirk David commented the minutes don't accurately reflect his recollection of discussions or conclusions, specifically regarding the need for an IFSAC Purpose Statement. Chair Oscar Baumhoff noted the minutes were prepared by an IDL staff member unfamiliar with IFSAC activities. MOTION AMENDED by Chair to allow members additional time to submit edits; the minutes will be considered for approval by the committee again at the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up Item: Members are requested to submit edits for the January 27, 2011 minutes prior to the next meeting scheduled for September 27, 2011.

IFSAC Purpose Statement Development

Secretary Ara Andrea presented the IFSAC draft Purpose Statement for discussion. Ara explained the Purpose Statement was crafted as a result of committee input at the last meeting. The draft has been written very broadly and all encompassing at this point. Ara asked the committee to consider paring it down or rearranging the content as they deem necessary while at the same time incorporating those IFSAC charges identified as part of the State Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Resource Strategy.

Question by guest Steve Funk: How does the draft Purpose Statement differ from section III in the existing IFSAC Operating Procedures? Ara explained the draft Purpose Statement includes portions of the Operating Procedures, but also provides for a big-picture view of the purposes of the committee in terms of Forest Stewardship Program delivery.

Kirk David commented that everything in the Purpose Statement is already included in the current Operating Procedures. Ara explained that much is the same on both documents, but some information is changed to reflect where the committee and program are headed now and in the future, including providing input to the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee, making sure landowners are aware of

options available to them under the program, and contributing ideas regarding potential S&PF competitive grant projects versus administering the actual program.

Questions from Ed Schneider: Is there a difference between the Purpose Statement and the Operating Procedures? Ed commented that while he sees these two documents may contain the same information, they serve different purposes. Ed encouraged the committee to complete the needed edits of the draft Purpose Statement.

Ara further explained the impetus for the Purpose Statement. It delineates the top activities of IFSAC and helps communicate to the public those committee activities that promote the Forest Stewardship Program. Ara agrees that the Operating Procedures can include these statements also, but the Operating Procedures serve as the committee's internal document to conduct day-to-day business.

Ed Schneider requested removing the reference "politically charged" from the Purpose Statement. Chair Oscar Baumhoff agreed and commented that removing the reference avoids characterizing an issue with a personal opinion or viewpoint.

Ara incorporated the requested edits into the draft Purpose Statement and welcomed additional written comments from the committee.

Discussion Regarding Needed Committee Interests and Representation

Ara provided background for this topic. At the previous meeting, members discussed interests that should be represented on the committee and created a list. Ara listed the interests not currently represented on the committee which include county commissioners, other Idaho tribes besides the Nez Perce, Farm Service Agency, loggers, Sustainable Forest Initiative State Implementation Committee members, and additional family forest landowners.

Chris Schnepf expressed interest in having forest industry representation on the committee. Ara commented that she has seen an increase in industry involvement in the Idaho Tree Farm program over the last year. Tom Davis explained that industry interest in Tree Farm has increased due to the group representing an additional source of certified wood.

Kirk David reviewed section IV of the IFSAC Operating Procedures outlining the establishment of and member representation on the committee. Craig Foss explained that all of the interests listed in the Operating Procedures have been invited to participate in the past but that not all of the listed interests are currently represented. Craig explained that Ara is asking the committee to revisit the list and decide if those interests not represented currently should be contacted again.

Robyn Miller commented that she thinks it's important to have forest industries represented on the committee as more stewardship projects cross ownership boundaries. Robyn also explained that she cannot represent conservation groups/land trusts *and* environmental groups. Robyn offered to provide names of individuals and/or groups to contact for environmental group representation.

Chair Oscar Baumhoff commented that he would like to have a representative serve on the committee that is from wildland fire. Oscar explained the committee needs this expertise especially when dealing with the use of prescriptive fire and related issues. Oscar also thinks it would be beneficial to have loggers represented separate from industry.

Discussion followed regarding representation by county commissioners on the committee and it was commented that Gordon Harnash does an excellent job of providing a county-government perspective to

the committee. However, increasingly under SAFR and competitive grants, project work will likely necessitate the handing off of projects to local county commissioners to manage. Ed Schneider commented he is not in favor of county commissioners serving because they typically don't have time to attend meetings and end up sending a representative to attend in their place. Ed thinks having loggers serve on the committee is very important. Clark Christiansen suggested that 'loggers' be changed to 'contractors' because project funding for pre-commercial operations and other activities largely ends up going to contractors.

Ara asked the committee how they want to weigh various interests and representatives, specifically family forest landowners. Ara reported that she's had six forest landowners contact her, directly or indirectly, about potentially serving on the committee. Craig explained that at the last meeting he talked about limiting the advisory committee to around 20-21 individuals total. Craig stated he is not trying to exclude anyone, but wants to be strategic about who and how many members serve so that the committee can realistically achieve a quorum and contain costs. Frank discussed conservation districts and how they fit the membership interest criteria—Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Conservation Districts are the same folks.

Kirk commented that now that the committee has a list of potential interests they would like to see represented on IFSAC, who will solicit these potential members? Kirk commented that this is an action item that should be decided and/or assigned by the committee. Kirk shared with the committee past correspondence between Dee Sessions and Craig Foss about the need for the IFSAC committee to grow, incorporate new members, and have more NIPF landowner representation, with the goal of having at least 8 family forest landowners from different geographic areas with varying interests other than timber production, i.e., wildlife, fire prevention, recreation, etc. The correspondence states the importance of 'ownership' of the committee by landowners through taking charge, facilitating, making assignments, recruiting new members, heading-up subcommittees and reducing the workload of the program manager.

Ed Schneider commented the committee needs to determine how many more landowners it needs and recognize that current landowner members represent multiple groups such as Tree Farm, IFOA, etc. Ed commented that the current membership roster has many more government representatives than NIPFs. Ara agreed and confirmed that the work the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program does is for the benefit of NIPFs. However, beginning last year the mechanism for how IDL receives funding for the Forest Stewardship Program changed so that a portion now comes via competitive grants for landscape level project work. This requires greater collaboration amongst groups such as NRCS, land trusts, and others to receive these limited resources for delivery to family forest landowners.

Ed Schneider agrees that greater collaboration is necessary and would like the committee to decide on the number of NIPF members today. Craig Foss commented that he does not care how many NIPFs the committee feels is necessary to serve—if the committee wants to go from 2 to 8 landowners he is okay with that, but if 4 can accomplish the same goals, that is more efficient. Chris Schnepf stated that family forest landowners may feel overpowered by the number of government representation on the committee and thinks 6 landowners is about right. Ed Schneider commented he would vote for 4 and, if necessary, the committee could always add more in the future. Ara reported that currently there are 2 family forest landowners serving on the committee—Ed Schneider and Chair Oscar Baumhoff. Kirk David represents the Idaho NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee, although he is also a family forest landowner and an active member of IFOA and the Idaho Tree Farm Committee.

Discussion followed regarding how members representing multiple groups are counted in terms of family forest landowners serving on the committee. Kirk David asked the Chair if he would entertain a motion to nominate three NIPFs who have volunteered to serve on the committee since the last meeting.

Vice-Chair Robyn Miller suggested the committee make the nomination of family forest landowner representatives a priority action item at the meeting today. Robyn stated that the more overlap of representation or ‘hats’ an individual wears on the committee, the better. Robyn suggested the committee delay addressing other representative interests until family forest landowner representation has been decided. Chris Schnepf made a distinction between landowner/government agency representation and landowner/volunteer representation. Discussion followed regarding reimbursement of committee member expenses.

MOTION by Kirk David to change the target minimum number of non-industrial private forest landowners serving on the committee from at least 2 to at least 8, seconded by Ed Schneider; motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up Item: Update IFSAC Operating Procedures document to reflect NIPF representation is at least eight members.

Discussion followed regarding the process of vetting potential landowner nominees and other interests currently vacant on the committee. Robyn recommended a subcommittee be formed to take the lead in identifying the prospective new members with the goal of having newly appointed members attend the fall 2011 meeting. Kirk recommended that the committee discuss qualifications of interested volunteers and make recommendations directly to the State Forester. Ed Schneider commented that the committee could potentially submit an unlimited number of nominees for consideration.

Following a short break, the committee reconvened.

Discussion continued regarding the process for selecting potential new committee members. Frank Gariglio asked the committee to consider only nominations for family forest landowner applicants at this time and delay discussion of other-interest nominations until the fall meeting. Chair Oscar Baumhoff suggested perhaps the committee send invitations to perspective members to attend the next meeting.

Craig Foss explained the process currently used to fill openings on advisory committees, like the Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee and the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council. Nominations are requested from the representative interest groups which are sent to the Bureau of Forestry Assistance in the form of a bio, then Bureau staff compile all of the bios for review, determine minimum criteria have been met, and then forward the initial ‘cut’ to the director for consideration and final appointment. Craig reported Bureau staff’s willingness to continue to provide this service to the committee, or in the alternative, appoint a subcommittee to perform this function.

Gordon Harnash requested the committee forego appointing a subcommittee to compile bios of nominees. Gordon commented that bios are very important especially when there are many individuals interested in serving on the committee. Gordon is willing to follow up with county commissioners to determine their level of interest and suggests other members make contact with other groups (loggers, contractors, etc). Oscar requested that committee members actively recruit and submit bios to the Bureau of Forestry Assistance.

A MOTION by Robyn that the committee focus on recruiting and submitting bios for family forest landowners, emphasizing those that serve multiple interest categories and, following that effort, reassess what gaps still exist at the fall meeting for other representative interests; Ed Schneider seconded. Chris Schnepf recommended the committee discuss the draft Member Position Description immediately following this motion. Craig Foss requested the motion be amended to include a deadline for family forest landowner nominations to ensure sufficient time for new members to attend the fall meeting. There

being no objection to the amended motion, the deadline for submission of **family forest landowner** nominations is **June 30, 2011**. This amended motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up Item: Ara Andrea summarized the plan of action based upon the committee's vote: 1) IFOA and any other individual nominations and bios will be sent to Ara (by June 30, 2011), 2) Ara will request bios from interested individuals that have contacted her previously, and 3) the Bureau will go through its process as described by Craig Foss.

Chris Schnepf requested a change in the order of agenda items to discuss IFSAC information for potential members next. No objection to the change in agenda order.

IFSAC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS

The committee reviewed the draft Position Description prepared by Chris Schnepf. Kirk David requested clarification regarding the purpose for the draft Position Description—does it focus solely on family forest landowners or every member position on the committee? Is there anything in the draft document that would not be expected from every member on the committee? Following discussion, the document title was changed to “Member Position Description.”

Chris Schnepf suggested adding “or send a proxy” following “(s)hould be able to attend at least two meetings annually.” Discussion followed regarding family forest landowner members ideally representing more than one group. This qualification will be used to filter member qualifications but it will not be included in the Position Description as a requirement. The number of IFSAC members that are family forest landowners was changed from “at least two” to “at least eight,” the reference to family forest landowners “one from northern and one from southern Idaho” was deleted, and addition of “representatives from a variety of organizations and agencies with a stake in family forests.”

King Rockhill commented that he is confused about the role of the State Forester in selecting committee members. Secretary Ara Andrea responded that, as part of the State Forester's process, he relies on committee members and each interest group represented to provide input defining their needs and promoting their interests through nominations. Alice Rockhill commented on the difficulties and drawbacks of trying to record in a single document all desired member requirements and qualifications. Robyn suggested the IFSAC draft Purpose Statement be developed consistent with the stated elements in the Member Position Description.

Chris asked the family forest landowners present whether the information listed in the Member Position Description hit the mark. Feedback provided indicates that it does. Further discussion followed about how best to express predominant participation of family forest landowners on the committee.

A MOTION by Chair Oscar Baumhoff to approve the modified draft of Member Position Description which will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting for final approval, seconded by Mary Terra-Berns. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Following a brief lunch break, the committee reconvened.

IFSAC OFFICER ROLES AND NOMINATIONS

Gordon Harnash reported that the nominating sub-committee has been in contact with two individuals regarding officer roles. Sister Carol Ann Wassmuth indicated she would consider the vice-chair position and Ed Schneider indicated he would consider the chair position. Robyn Miller commented that she would be willing to serve as chair or continue as vice-chair, but sees the value in a family forest

landowner in the chair position. The IFSAC Operating Procedures state nominations must be submitted 30 days prior to the fall meeting and there is still time to find another candidate for the chair position. Ed Schneider strongly supports the nominations for vice-chair but, while he was flattered to be nominated for chair, he declined the nomination. Robyn requests the committee accept the sub-committee's nomination list so far, but requests the subcommittee continue to work on two more nominations for the chair position.

Question from Chris Schnepf--Is the vice-chair a chair-*elect*? According to operating procedures, the vice-chair position is not a chair-elect position. Both vice-chair and chair officer positions are elected at the fall meeting to serve a two-year term.

Secretary Ara Andrea reported that she has been asked to use an anonymous online voting system which she is willing to arrange. Kirk David confirmed that regardless of how the voting is conducted the Operating Procedures state the election will be done by or during the fall meeting with officers to begin their term the following January. The committee approved online voting with a deadline for submitting **officer** nominations to Ara Andrea by **August 1, 2011**. Ara will set up the online voting ballot and email members with the details.

Chair Oscar Baumhoff accepted the sub-committee's officer nomination report along with committee comments and discussion and requested Secretary Ara Andrea keep track of the nominations as they are submitted, arrange online voting, and communicate the voting arrangements to committee members.

REPORT ON POTENTIAL IFSAC OUTREACH METHODS

Mary Terra-Berns provided the committee with an update on outreach methods. Mary suggested an online newsletter as an inexpensive way to share information. Those interested in receiving it can sign-up to be recipients. Information shared can include data, statistics, literature, good work accomplished, tips, etc. Mary also suggested an Outlook group could be created to email a newsletter or other information, as needed. For those without email service, paper copies of the newsletter can be sent through regular mail. Also, if the committee needs feedback on a broad question for family forest landowners, a message can be sent to the group to solicit a response. Mary does not recommend a blog and shared some of the pitfalls of that approach.

Kirk reported on the Idaho Forest Owners Association's (IFOA's) use of Constant Contact®, an online subscription service that provides subscribers with email-driven notices to select recipients. The service is not very expensive and has a set annual rate. The subscriber inputs email addresses for recipients and recipients can opt-out. The service provides a mechanism for recipients to respond back to the sender. Constant Contact® has multiple functions available depending upon what the subscriber wants to do with it, with a separate charge for each service. Other methods used by IFOA to communicate with its members include bulk mail, first class mail and email.

Chris Schnepf reported on Montana's forest newsletter that has 4 or 5 topical lists recipients can sign-up to receive. Ed Schneider commented that he likes the IFOA approach and discussed the pros and cons of using an email service versus a website. Ed suggests a proactive approach, whichever communication method the committee should decide to use.

IDAHO FOREST RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Vice-Chair Robyn Miller reported she has no information to share at this time. When the workshop report becomes available, she will pass it along to the committee members through Ara.

UPCOMING MULTI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Secretary Ara Andrea reported that the National Fire Plan Coordinator, Craig Glazier, will host the first multi-advisory group meeting on April 25, 2011. IFSAC members John DeGroot and Robyn Miller will attend on behalf of IFSAC along with members of the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group. The initial meeting will allow members to share ideas, review the State Forest Response Strategy, identify roles for the various committees as advisory groups, and work toward dovetailing landscape level projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Sjoquist, Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Coordinator, requested the committee direct the FLP subcommittee to convene in order to discuss and make recommendations for incorporation of the FLP Assessment of Need (AON) into the State Assessment of Forest Resources & Response Strategy. The FLP AON is scheduled for review and updates in 2012. There being no objection, Karen will contact FLP sub-committee members Gordon Harnash, Frank Gariglio, Kirk David, and Sister Carol Ann Wassmuth to schedule a meeting. Karen also reported there will likely be two new FLP applications and one phased project for the sub-committee to review and rank this year.

Question from Ed Schneider—has the majority of FLP acreage in Idaho been industrial? Ara reported this is correct. Does the size of the industrial acreage help with selection ranking on the national level? Would smaller family forest landowner acreage not be ranked as high nationally due to size? Ara responded that ranking depends on the national committee. Idaho's FLP history was reviewed—the first three phased-in projects totaled over 50,000 acres and were owned by Potlatch Corp. Additional discussion followed regarding ranking of more recent projects. Robyn Miller reported that FLP ranking has no specific ownership size criteria, but instead ranks proposed projects based upon conservation values, threats, values to the public of the forest resource, etc. Robin reported that a project like the Bane Creek Neighbors would likely rank higher because of adjoining small parcels combined into a single application versus a single ownership application with small acreage.

The next IFSAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at the IDL Staff Office in Coeur d'Alene.

Discussion followed regarding adjourning the meeting prior to the afternoon field tour. MOTION by Ed Schneider to adjourn, seconded by Gordon Harnash. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m.

The committee and guests participated in an afternoon field trip to view various forestry projects completed by the Nez Perce Tribe and a private forest landowner in the Craig Mountain area.

Respectfully submitted by Suzie Jude.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Alice Rockhill, guest	Family Forestland Owner
Ara Andrea, member (Secretary)	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Chris Gerhart, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Orofino
Chris Schnepf, member	UI Extension
Clark Christiansen, ex-officio	Idaho Department of Lands, Craig Mountain
Clint Evans, guest	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Boise
Craig Foss, ex-officio	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Dale Dimico, guest	Family Forestland Owner
Edward Schneider, member	North Idaho Family Forestland Owner
Frank Gariglio, member	USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lewiston
G. Kirk David, member	NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Rep
Gordon Harnash, member	Kootenai County
Jay Sila, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Craig Mountain
Jeff Burwell, guest	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Boise
John DeGroot, member	Nez Perce Tribe
John Nelson, guest	Idaho Fish & Game, Lewiston
Joyce Jowdy, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Karen Sjoquist, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
King Rockhill, guest	Family Forestland Owner
Mary Terra-Berns, member	Idaho Fish & Game, Coeur d'Alene
Oscar Baumhoff, member (Chair)	South Idaho Family Forestland Owner
Randy Brooks, ex-officio	UI Extension
Robert Reggear, guest	Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District/ Family Forestland Owner
Robyn Miller, member (Vice-Chair)	The Nature Conservancy
Russell J. Snyder, guest	Contractor/Family Forestland Owner
Steve Funk, guest	Family Forestland Owner
Suzie Jude, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Thom Hawkins, guest	Consulting Forester
Tom Davis, member	Consulting Forester
Treg Owings, guest	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lewiston
Wally Hamilton, guest	Family Forestland Owner